



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

DEC 9 1971

Dear Dr. Wickman

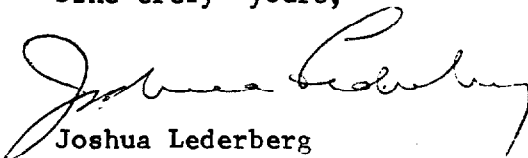
You are so kind to reply so promptly to my request!

It is amusing that you mention Dr. von Soestbergen. I had seen the same notice in the local edition of of Med. Tribune, but had lost track of it. Yesterday, by accident, I found it again, and I meant to send it on to you, after I had had some response from Dr. v.S., to whom I have indeed written.

There is very little excuse for me to involve you in my curiosity. From my own research on the genetics of enterobacteria, I have pondered on the relationships between *E. coli* and the well-known pathogens (which may remind you also of Metchnikoff!) And I have been interested for many years in the concept of symbiosis -- namely that the extraction of the human organism from his associated microflora is to create a rather artificially, and genetically limited sort of species. (Cf. an ancient review, of which I regret I no longer have any reprints: *Physiol. Revs.*, 32:403, 1952). And I have no doubt that when we have a better knowledge and control of the genetics and evolution of 'saprophytic' microbes, not excluding viruses, we will have to be making greater use of them, the more as the antibiotic compounds fail.

I mentioned your papers when I write to v.S., and if I hear anything useful from him, or elsewhere, on the subject, will certainly pass it on.

Sincerely yours,


Joshua Lederberg

W. Wickman